

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2006, Applicants submitted an Amendment on February 20, 2007, amending claims 1, 5–8, and 11–14 and adding new claim 20. By this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants now add new claims 21 and 22 and submit that no new matter is added by these claims.

New claims 21 and 22 refer to the first, second and third contact point portions as “a plurality of contact point portions” and, likewise, the first, second and third contact terminal portions as “a plurality of contact terminal portions”. Claim 21 specifically recites that the “plurality of contact point portions are conducted with a predetermined polarity in the inside of the charging means and said plurality of contact point portions are arranged in a symmetrical mode.” Support for this claim is found on page 17 in lines 3–4 and in Figure 5 of Applicants’ Specification. Claim 22 recites that the “plurality of contact terminal portions are conducted with a predetermined polarity in the inside of the charging means and said plurality of contact terminal portions are arranged in a symmetrical mode.” Support for this claim is found on page 17 in lines 4–5 and in Figure 2 of Applicants’ Specification.

Because the plurality of contact point portions and plurality of contact terminal portions have the same polarity arranged in a symmetrical mode, the contact point portions and terminal point portions may be in contact with each other to charge the battery regardless of which direction the image forming apparatus is mounted in the container stand. See Applicants’ Specification, p. 17, ll. 6–8; Figs. 2, 5 (“being in contact with either the contact terminal 958a or 958c, the contact points 910a and 910c make correct connection”).

Applicants submit that new claims 21 and 22 recite features similar to independent claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons provided by Applicants in the February 20, 2007 Amendment for allowing independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

AUTHORIZATION

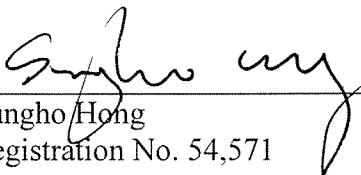
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5166). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: April 4, 2007

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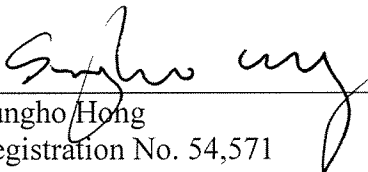
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